

Volume 25, No. 11, November 1993

0031-5712/93

CAROLINA COUNTRY

Weaving Designs for
North Carolina Textiles

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Special Projects Editor

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Graphic Designer/Artist

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Our View

Cooperatives help in community planning

All Talk and All Action

by Brian Crutchfield

Have you ever been to a meeting, or to the local coffee shop, where people were talking about what's needed in your community? Someone stands up and talks, and talks, and talks about their good ideas while someone else argues.

Thinking and talking are great as far as they go, but by themselves, they just don't go far enough. Concern has to be turned into action to get results.

Agreeing on the action and then doing something about it can be a challenge. That's where leadership, cooperation, and commitment come into play. They are characteristics successful communities have in common. When you think about it, they are characteristics common to successful electric cooperatives, too.

So when Ashe County leaders decided to take seriously all the talk about their county's future, it was natural that Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation would be part of the action.

All of North Carolina's electric co-ops share responsibility for the welfare of the communities we serve. It is our home as much as each individual house is. Our children and grandchildren for generations will live in a future we cannot predict. But we can help them on their way.

Fundamental changes are occurring



"Cooperative Solutions."

in our economy, and some of our communities have trouble adjusting to the changes. Our communities must take steps to address the changes. Those communities that plan for their future will be ahead of those who do not.

Earlier this summer the citizens of Ashe County, took the first step toward

laying out such a plan. The initiative was called the Ashe Action Agenda, and it involved a variety of organizations and individuals.

We at Blue Ridge Electric introduced a resource team process developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and we adapted it to meet the specific concerns of Ashe County. Blue Ridge Electric staff worked with the county commissioners, the chamber of commerce, and the economic development council to design and implement the Agenda program. (See page 6.)

The basic concept behind the Ashe Action Agenda was to bring into the county a group of rural development specialists to serve as independent, unbiased and knowledgeable sources of information for local people. The resource team spent several days in Ashe County assessing the local situation, meeting and listening to local citizens, and discussing preliminary recommendations for actions that local leaders may choose to implement.

The group interview sessions were fast paced and involved people who had something to say. It's amazing the ideas you can come up with when you have a large number of people represented.

This method of interviewing local stakeholders is a cost-effective technique for determining various perspectives. It helps to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the county and to crystallize thinking in regard to critical issues. The interview process also helps initiate and renew communication in the county.

Our team expects to deliver a final report before the end of the year. The report will emphasize projects which can be accomplished with local resources and will identify other projects that may require outside help. Sources of technical and financial assistance for each project will also be noted.

Distribution of the final report will coincide with a strategic planning session hosted by Agenda sponsors, including Blue Ridge Electric. The purpose of this session is to initiate an organized approach to turning the recommendations into reality.

The Ashe Action Agenda is no more than another study on the shelf unless local residents are committed to it. The challenge is to maintain our commitment to the program and stay involved.

As we know at the co-op, any of us can be committed to doing something for people and places we care about.

Other counties in North Carolina surely face an economic situation that requires them to develop a plan for a better future. All of us, wherever we are, whatever we do, may recognize our common community in some of the issues that were apparent in Ashe County.

And wherever that place is in this state, it is likely to have an EMC that understands the challenges and is committed to setting in motion cooperative solutions.

Brian Crutchfield is manager of economic development for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir

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Photos by Ed Reed

Top: The annual Christmas in July festival in downtown West Jefferson, the center of Ashe County.
Right: Ashe County in autumn.

The Ashe Action Agenda

By Kim Whorton

Who better understands the needs of a rural community, its residents or outside experts?

In Ashe County, the answer could be "both."

Local people best understand community needs and aspirations. Objective, unbiased experts can help develop innovative plans and gather resources.

Through a new "resource team" concept developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, local residents and independent experts joined forces to create a better future in Ashe County. The success of such teams is vital to rural America.

Many North Carolina communities, such as Ashe County, are outgrowing their support systems. All of a sudden, it seems, they need new roads, bridges, health care facilities, schools, waste disposal systems, public safety programs, and more people to build and staff it all.

"Our economic climate is undergoing dramatic changes," says Brian Crutchfield, manager of economic development for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, based in the fast-growing region of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northwestern North Carolina. He knows that the communities he

works with are not alone.

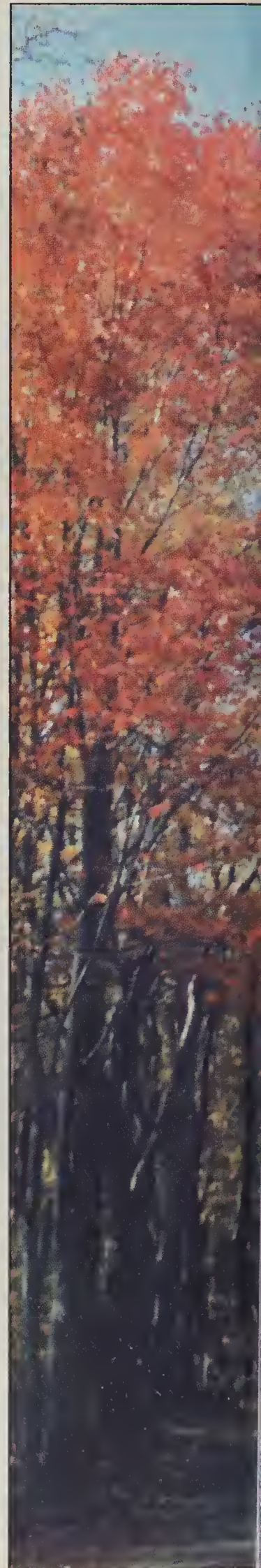
"Many communities served by electric co-ops in the state are trying to deal with the change, and electric co-ops are naturally involved," Crutchfield says.

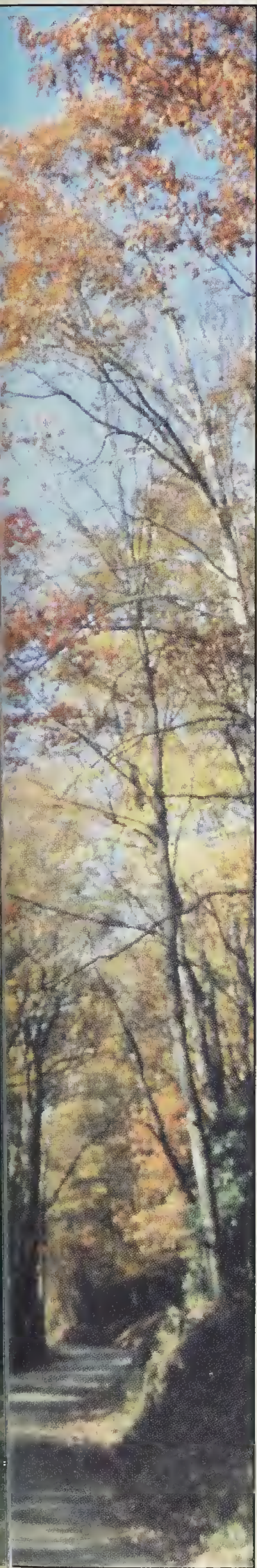
Electric co-ops have introduced the resource team process in dozens of counties across the country. The process brings together two important ingredients: experts and concerned local citizens. The experts are well-versed in areas such as development financing, improving rural health care, waste management and housing. The citizens know the challenges and strengths of their home town, and most importantly, they care deeply about its future.

The two come together to assess a region's needs and capabilities for development. Citizens' opinions, ideas, complaints and energy are the most instrumental part of the process.

At Work in Ashe County

The resource team method already is at work in Ashe County in the northwestern corner of the state. Brian Crutchfield in March invited a representative of NRECA to visit Ashe County to discuss the program. The idea was enthusiastically welcomed by





the Blue Ridge co-op staff and local leaders. By last spring, the team had selected the name Ashe Action Agenda to reflect the planning and motivation that fueled the effort.

"When a successful community decides to invest in its future, it starts planning," Crutchfield says.

Strong community sponsors are backing the project: Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, Ashe County Commissioners and the Ashe County Economic Development Council.

Kitty Lawrence, executive director of the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, says while the county faces many challenges, there are solutions.

"We couldn't be more supportive of the process," she says. "When we realized the number of people who care about Ashe County and who are willing to go the extra mile, we wanted to be a part of it. It was a very positive experience."

The focal point of the Ashe Action Agenda was a three-day visit in June by a 10-member resource team with local, state and national credentials. The breadth of experience included the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Regional Council of Governments, the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, Carolina Electric Cooperatives, Wake Electric Membership Corporation, NRECA, National Rural Health Network, and the N.C. Department of Commerce, among others. Resource team members spent the first day on a guided tour of Ashe County to familiarize themselves with the territory.

On the second day, they discussed crucial issues with more than 125 local citizens invited to share their perspectives on a long list of concerns: education and training, roads, water and sewer systems, solid waste, job creation, business development, health care and community services.

On the final day of meetings, the team members assigned themselves problem areas in order to develop formal plans of action, including suggestions on how to obtain financial and technical assistance for each

project identified as having local priority.

The team expects to present its report and recommendations at a meeting later this year.

Once the formal plans are completed, projects will be further prioritized and responsibilities assigned among Ashe County citizens. Then, it's up to the community to turn the recommendations into reality.

"The resource team doesn't just give the community their opinions," said Eddie Durham, economic development specialist for Carolina Electric Cooperatives and member of the Ashe County Resource Team. "We take what we hear and provide a detailed implementation plan to help the citizens meet the goals they have made for themselves. The end goal is to give the community what it wants, not just what we think it needs."

The Ashe Action Agenda, of course, is no better than any other plan unless the community rallies to make the projects work.

"Most plans are like wish lists that sit on a shelf," Durham said. "The communities know what they need but not how to get there. This is also a wish list, but with a clear plan of action."

Since the development of the Ashe Action



The South Fork of the New River, a major county waterway.

Agenda, Granville County has set up a resource team project, called Greater Granville Goals, with assistance from Wake Electric Membership Corporation in Wake Forest. The resource team will conduct its three-day visit to Granville County this month.

Wake EMC also is assisting Franklin County in the initial stages of resource team planning. ☎

For more information about the Rural Resource Team program, contact Eddie Durham, Marketing and Economic Development Department, Carolina Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Telephone: (919) 872-0800. The contact for the Ashe Action Agenda is Brian Crutchfield, Blue Ridge Electric, Caller Service 112, Lenoir, N.C. 28645. Telephone: (704) 755-2383.

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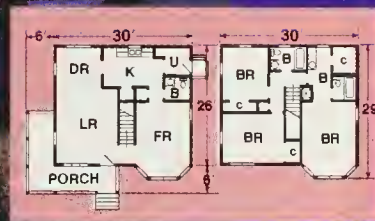
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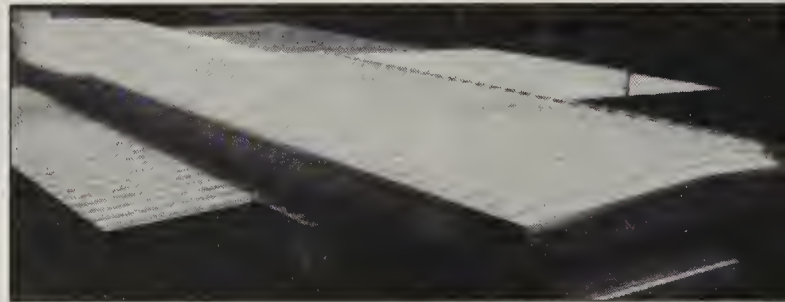
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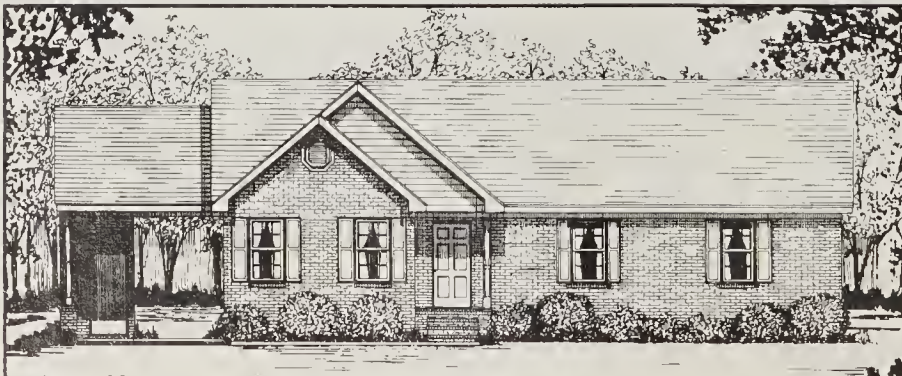
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Where warp meets weft

**By Michael E.C. Gery
Photos by Jerry Markatos**

The line you throw from a boat to a piling to haul yourself into position is called a warp. The warp doesn't fix you in place, but it does keep you from drifting.

Jean Vollrath cast a warp in 1977. She was adrift in some ways. She was a medical technologist in a Burlington laboratory and did not especially like working with the chemicals there. Her personal life was not comfortable. She did not have a TV for after-work diversion. So she enrolled in

an evening weaving course at Alamance Technical Community College in Haw River and learned to work a hand loom.

"People take up weaving at a time of transition in their lives," Jean says. "There is a peace of mind that comes from weaving, from making threads into fabric."

It's not a sudden change. It's slow, rhythmic progress, like the interlacing of threads—some colorful threads, some plain ones, some textured—until gradually a web forms, she says. You

patiently weave threads in and out, over and under the warp, and finally you see a pattern.

In weaving, the warp is nothing without the weft. The weft interwoven back and forth across the fixed warp makes the web.

Jean Vollrath saw a pattern emerge in her life some seven years after she learned to weave. By 1984 she was working in a lab at Duke University, commuting from Pittsboro. She arranged to work part-time in the lab, then opened a shop in Pittsboro which

continued on next page

*Below: Matthew Talbott at the barn.
Right: Jean Vollrath at the computer-
aided dobby loom.*



she named after nearby Hickory Mountain. She moved her big wooden hand loom into the shop, taught weaving classes there, sold weaving supplies and yarn.

"I looked at weaving as something settling, most people do," Jean says. "But you're only able to do it when you are already settled. So, opening the shop was creating a safe and peaceful place where I could try and get settled."

One of her weaving students was Greg Talbott of Sanford. Greg is an industrial mechanic at Weyerhaeuser in Moncure, but he is a wood craftsman by nature. At the time he met Jean, he was dismantling a 1770s post-and-beam house and had found a 200-year-old hand loom inside. He wanted to restore the loom and figured he ought to learn weaving in order to understand the working of a loom. While he learned about the loom, he fell in love with the weaver.

Jean and Greg now live in Staley with Greg's 13-year-old son, Matthew, their 2-year-old daughter, Jessie, four horses, two cats and a dog. In 1986,

they bought what is known as the Marley house, built in about 1820 by Thomas Marley, who had a mill on the adjacent Brush Creek. Located on the boundary of Randolph and Chatham counties, between Siler City and Ashboro on Highway 64, the farmstead also had been a store, a post office and a way station.

Jean and Greg are carefully restoring the Marley house's historical character. In 1990 their work earned the house a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Greg has become rather proficient at restoration. One of his restored hand looms is on exhibit in Historic Halifax.

Designs for Carolina Mills

The grounds outside their house are taking on an historical character, too. But this is not a replica of a 200-year-old farmstead. It's more like a weaving

of the threads of North Carolina's rural industrial heritage with those of her contemporary textile industry.

Inside an 1835 cabin moved to the property, Jean works on a wooden hand loom. An assistant and sometimes a

student or two work on another loom. They make throw rugs by weaving cotton threads and cotton twine normally used to bale tobacco. Other fabric ends up on pillows, placemats and clothing. Most of what they weave, however, is

sold as samples to North Carolina's big textile mills.

In a converted 1920s garage, Jean and Greg have opened a showroom not only for Jean's weaving—the pillows, placements, throws, rugs, clothing—but also for Greg's woodworking. Greg works in a converted chicken coop elsewhere on the property, making beautiful bowls and tools. He even makes pieces for weavers and knitters: unique wooden knitting needles, crochet hooks, spool knitters, yarn paddle organizers.

*"... you're only
able to do it when
you are already
settled..."*



The hands are Greg Talbott's at a lathe. His work is shown above.

And inside the big, old farmhouse is the ultimate blending of North Carolina's handcraft and high-tech textile industries: a computer-aided dobby loom. Now, when Jean weaves threads to an interesting design, she can store the design on a computer and reproduce it any time she wants.

"I make both designs and samples for the textile manufacturers," Jean says. "If they need a sample blanket of cloth to be used to cover partition walls in offices, or for upholstery, I make the samples for them. They make the cloth and show it to their customers. I am swamped with orders for these right now."

"People do this in New York," she says. "The big textile mills have design staffs in New York. So it is a real advantage for mills to have me right here nearby."

Sleeping in Touch

The clacking of a wooden loom is a mesmerizing motion of elegantly timed parts: bobbin, shuttle, reed, loom, harness, breast beam, slay, treadle.

As Jean Vollrath's loom clacks, it turns North Carolina cotton into an infinite array of woven patterns.

"The equipment has a wonderful feel," Jean says. Working it, she says, "really feels like you are weaving the fabric of your life."

After moving here from Indiana, earning a graduate degree in environmental science and engineering, and working in bacteriology and immunology labs of North Carolina's technical industry for 10 years, Jean says, "this work put the 'touch' back into my life."

"Making fabric creates order out of disorder," she says. "I think of the notion of the father god as creator, and the mother god as one who transforms something into something else."

She is a designer and a crafter, but Jean has no illusion of herself as an artist. Tension between art and craft does not faze her.

"My ambition is to make good cloth," she says. "I have no compelling need for self-expression. It's just like making a good home with Greg is important to me."

The almost-rural location along

Brush Creek is fine with Greg and Jean. Longtime local families have taught them about the Marley house history. People visit the showroom—friends and neighbors, travelers along Highway 64, members of the Randolph Arts Guild and Chatham Arts Council, the weaver guilds in Greensboro, Chapel Hill and Pinehurst.

"This area nurtures creativity," Jean says. "The woods, the animals. It's a low-cost, low-stress environment. There are no pretensions. We can live in a hand-made house. There are no fake crossbeams hanging over us. We can live appropriately to our values. When there is too much conflict between your values and your surroundings, there is no energy for creativity. What nurtures your spirit, nurtures your work." ●

Jean Vollrath and Greg Talbott are members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation. For information about their crafts, contact Hickory Mountain Weavery and Twin Birch Products at 10435 Highway 64 East, Staley, N.C. 27355.



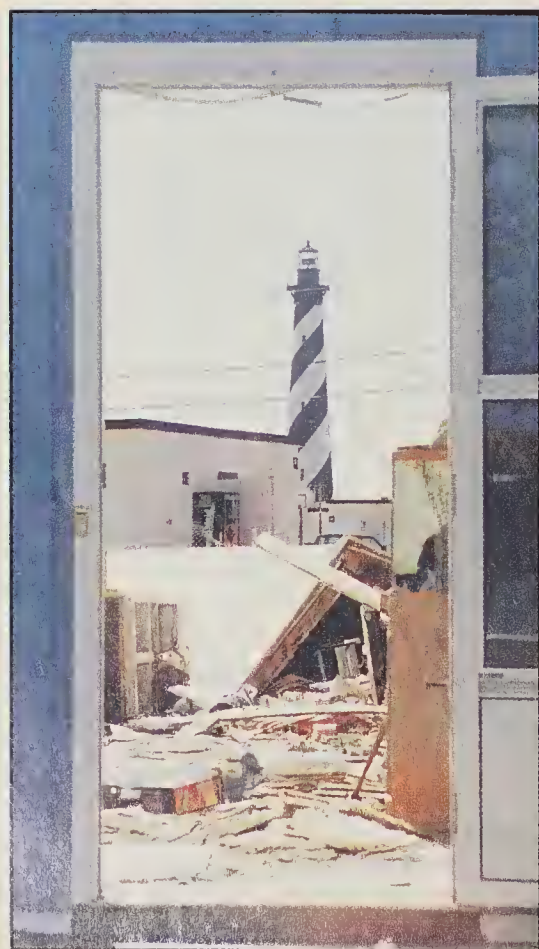
Ken Kroll



Michael Halmin

A cooperative response to an Outer Banks emergency

Our Affair With Emily



Dave Rowe

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse can prevent ships from running aground here, but it could not ward off Hurricane Emily.

Waiting for Emily produced excruciating anxiety within Hatteras and Ocracoke island communities.

Watching it on Aug. 31 was worse.

Recovering from it is still under way.

Hurricane Emily killed two people, destroyed 160 homes and caused more than \$11 million in damage. Its fury will be remembered for a long time.

But Emily also will be remembered for something else: excellent preparation, cooperation and recovery, especially from the state's electric cooperative network.

The Coastland Times newspaper commended Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative and Carolina Electric Cooperatives' "organized response" to restore power.

It took 74 hours to completely restore normal power to Ocracoke and 102 hours on Hatteras.

Two days before Hurricane Emily swept by North Carolina's Outer Banks, employees of Carolina Electric Cooperatives were already planning strategy to restore power to the barrier islands if necessary.

Carolina Electric Cooperatives worked with State Emergency Management staff beginning the Monday morning before the Tuesday storm and staffed the Emergency Operations Center in downtown Raleigh for 40 hours, dispatching help to the island, fielding inquiries and working with emergency relief agencies.

By 3 p.m., Aug. 31, Emily hurled 70 mph winds at the Outer Banks. N.C. Power, at the request of the Cape Hatteras co-op, severed power to Hatteras and Ocracoke islands.

By 8 p.m. that evening, trees and poles were down across N.C. Hwy. 12, the only road running the length of Hatteras Island, and severe property damage and flooding were reported. A communications with the island were severed except through amateur radio operators.

A National Guard helicopter transported Carolina Electric Cooperatives personnel from Raleigh to Hatteras and Ocracoke to start the generating stations. Equipment was dispatched to substitute for the Cape Hatteras co-op equipment that was lost or ruined by



Michael Halminski

Above: A thank-you note outside a house in Buxton.

Top right: Carolina Electric Cooperatives power plant operator Allen Clendenin and his wife wade around their Frisco place.



Ken Kroll

ooding seas. Carolina Electric Cooperatives also coordinated line crews from Carteret-Craven, Tideland, Jones-Onslow, Roanoke and Edgecombe-Martin electric cooperatives, totaling 80 men to assist Cape Hatteras staff with repairs.

Member Services personnel from Randolph EMC and Tideland EMC traveled to the co-op's flooded office in Buxton to begin clean-up operations and to answer calls around-the-clock.

Line crews worked day and night in adverse conditions, including waist-deep water, to repair the system on Hatteras Island. Because the island's water system had been damaged, there was no water to take showers until service was restored Thursday night, and it would be Friday night before the crews could take a hot shower.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, the generator at Ocracoke was started and power was restored to that island. On Thursday evening, the generator at Buxton was started and Cape Hatteras co-op's transmission lines were restored south of Hatteras Village. On Friday, Sept. 3, normal power was restored to Ocracoke



Ken Kroll

Jones-Onslow EMC linemen at work on a Buxton back road.


Island. It would be Sunday, Sept. 5, before normal power could be restored to all of Hatteras.

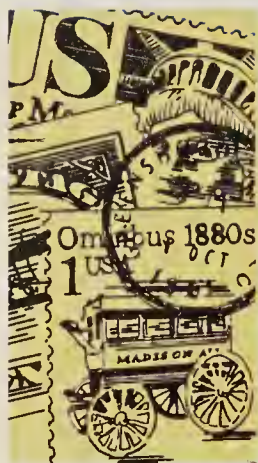
Myron Rummel, manager of Cape Hatteras EMC, said that by 9 p.m. Sunday, power had been restored to all homes and businesses except those that had sustained severe equipment or property damages which would have made reconnection a safety hazard.

"I can't say enough about the professionalism and conduct of everyone who worked so hard to help us," Rummel said.

As of mid-October, the co-op was still assessing damages. Of eight co-op vehicles, only three were operating a

month later. Labor costs alone exceeded \$300,000. The office suffered more than \$30,000 damage, excluding its contents. Six \$5,000 recloser controls were lost. Half the co-op's meters have to be replaced.

In the midst of its recovery, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative paused Oct. 4 for its annual meeting. Although the co-op faces an enormous, multi-year project to upgrade its distribution system, members at the meeting thanked staff for its performance in the aftermath of Emily, the second major storm this year, recognizing the human strength that binds cooperatives. 



A selection of letters from readers.

The pride of Winfall

In the August issue of Carolina Country, the "Q's and A's" article misled readers to believe the Town of Hertford has the benefit of the Albemarle EMC. In fact, the people of Hertford can only dream about the quality of service and the reasonable rates provided by our EMC.

It is the neighboring town of Winfall that is home to the Albemarle EMC.

**Bert Hayes, Acting Mayor
Winfall**

The Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation newsletter published in the August Carolina Country included a map and travel directions to the co-op office. The co-op's mailing address is Hertford, but its office is in the adjacent town of Winfall. The co-op is as proud to be there and serve the people of Winfall as Mr. Hayes is to have it.

A thank you note from Eunice

I want to express my deep appreciation and that of all our church members for printing the article in the August issue about our cookbook. As of yesterday we had orders for 174 books.

The article was eye catching - people asked all kinds of questions. One lady asked if it would be all right to come and visit our church, because it sounded like a place she would like to be.

We are a country church, small in number, and were raising funds to pave the driveway around the church and do some other needed work.

**Ellen A. Reeve
Spartanburg**

Recipes from "The Good Cook's Cookbook," published by Saddle Mountain Union Baptist Church in Eunice, ran in the August Carolina Country.



The Capitola hydroelectric plant in Marshall.

Hydroelectricity on French Broad River

A friend recommended I read the August issue of Carolina Country because of the article on Madison Country. I found the article to be very interesting.

I visited the town of Marshall several years ago and went to a small hydro plant on the French Broad River which was owned by CP&L. On page 9 of the August Carolina Country there is a photo of a hydro plant in Marshall which is owned by EMC. I just wonder if there are two hydroelectric plants in Marshall.

**Bill L. Williams
Rockingham, N.C.**

The Capitola hydroelectric plant pictured in the August issue is indeed owned by French Broad Electric Membership Corporation. Carolina Power & Light owns a hydro generating station farther downriver, known as the Redmon Dam and Hydro Station.

A love letter from Alexis

I love your magazine. I look forward to getting it each month. It has so much valuable information, recipes, humor and more. All of your hard work sure pays off. There is something in it for people from all walks of life.

*Zana Parr Clippard
Alexis*

From Mrs. Brown's little boy

I can't tell you how awed I am by your generous assessment of my career, and impressed with the way you displayed the articles so handsomely in Carolina Country [September 1993]. The magazine is read by a lot of people I had lost track of. Earlier, when you carried some of the pieces about the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, some old friends surfaced and contacted me. Even better, several of your readers around Waynesville contacted my mother to let her know they had read about her son. That, of course, pleased her. You put out a very professional, well-written, magazine with excellent graphic design. I remain a devoted reader, and I'm honored to be included in your coverage.

*J.C. Brown
Annandale, Va.*

J.C. Brown is a Waynesville native who retired July 1 after 37 years with the North Carolina and national associations of electric cooperatives. He was editor of this magazine from 1956 to 1961.

What Do You Think?

Send us a letter or a fax about our articles or your electric cooperative. Messages should be brief and must include your name and telephone number (for verification purposes). Our address is Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Fax: (919) 878-3970.

For saving hardwood forests

Since I understand to some extent the importance of natural ecological balance, and I have no desire for extreme economic gain, I respect the necessity of natural and widespread existence of oak and other hardwood forests, and therefore I do not appreciate the article, "What about the red-cockaded woodpecker?" in Carolina Country [July 1993], which I think completely turns around some important facts concerning survival or extinction of hardwood trees.

The assistant state forester's statements that cleared land probably will naturally "turn into a hardwood forest ... in 20 to 30 years," that "softwood forests must be planted ... to prevent hardwoods from taking over," and that "we are almost guaranteed plenty of maturing timber across the state," are ridiculous to say the least.

It would normally take more than a century for denuded land to develop into a substantial hardwood forest — if the faster growing pines and softer hardwood poplars did not dominate. In nearly a half century I have never seen a basically oak forest develop from cleared land. But I have often seen pines or poplars replace cleared hardwood forests. The disappearing oak takes around 75 years — after it gets started — to grow into a 20-inch diameter tree.

Fast growing pine forests are necessary to provide essential materials most efficiently and substantially. But you in effect advocate eradication of the scarce and diminishing hardwoods — as if they obstruct cultured progress.

Ray Scott, Lowgap

Fred M. White, assistant state forester for forest management and development, responds:

The harvest of a hardwood forest in North Carolina will result in a new hardwood forest. ... A pine stand when harvested may or may not be replaced by a new pine forest. The successional pressure on most sites in North Carolina will replace a pine forest with a hardwood forest. The process is a very gradual one, and without traumatized influences may take 70 or 80 years. A pine forest, following its harvest, may be replaced by a pine forest if care is taken in timing its removal to coincide with a suitable crop of pine seeds. Most often the harvest of a mature pine stand results in a new stand of both pine and hardwood.

Abandoned agricultural fields, which I believe is what Mr. Scott had in mind, will develop into a forest in 20 to 30 years. Actually it occurs quicker than that but doesn't look like a forest for a few decades. The type of forest depends upon the type of seed which reaches the field. Given the ubiquitousness of pine, abandoned fields usually are first occupied by pine; harvested fields in large river drainage systems of the coastal plain and in mountain coves are usually first occupied by hardwoods. ...

Mr. Scott is quite right about the disappearing oak, but only on the most productive mesic and bottomland sites. On xeric sites, oak is a dominant member of the new forests which develop following almost any form of harvest. Our forestry organizations are working hard to learn how to ensure the development of oak following harvest of productive mesic sites.

No one advocated eradication of scarce and diminishing hardwoods. It can be sound silviculture, under certain conditions, to eradicate those hardwoods occupying space in a pine plantation. ... When one reflects upon the current dominant extent of hardwoods in North Carolina (12.4 million acres of hardwood timber types and 6.3 million acres of softwoods including), "scarce and diminishing" are ridiculous terms to say the least.



Federal budget provision will affect co-ops.

Carolina Country's editors have assumed new responsibilities to better serve the needs of the state's 28 electric co-ops and 600,000 consumer-members.

Michael E.C. Gery, who had served as associate editor since January 1992, has been named editor of the magazine. Owen Bishop, who had been editor for the past 18 years, assumes the newly created position of special projects editor.

Gery will direct production of the magazine as part of his duties as the Corporate Communications Department's publications editor. He'll also supervise the department's graphic design and production section and act as editorial director for newsletters, brochures, annual reports and other materials.

Bishop will handle some administrative responsibilities for Carolina Country while also working on public relations projects for Carolina Electric Cooperatives. He will continue to write for the magazine and coordinate long-range

strategic planning for the publication. His corporate communications duties will include writing and editing for various publications and special assignments.

Meanwhile, Katherine Fowler of Raleigh is the new graphic designer-artist for the magazine and for the Corporate Communications Department. She also will oversee the design and production of several publications and projects for the state's electric cooperatives. A graduate of the North Carolina State University School of Design, she joined the staff in September after working in marketing and publication design in the Raleigh area, including six years at the News and Observer in Raleigh.

Carolina Country is published by Carolina Electric Cooperatives for distribution to the consumer-members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. It is mailed monthly to 340,000 homes and businesses across the state.

Help for the Gettysburg statue

A fund has been established to maintain the North Carolina monument in Gettysburg National Military Park.

The monument depicts North Carolina



soldiers gazing across the field to Cemetery Ridge prior to the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge, considered the high water mark of the Confederacy. One third of the troops involved in the charge were from North Carolina.

The endowment fund has been set up by the General Robert E.

Lee Camp Number 803, Sons of Confederate Veterans for the perpetual care of the monument. The fund will be administered by the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association in cooperation with the National Park Service.

For information, contact the North Carolina Monument Fund Committee, P.O. Box 4281, Sanford, N.C. 27331.



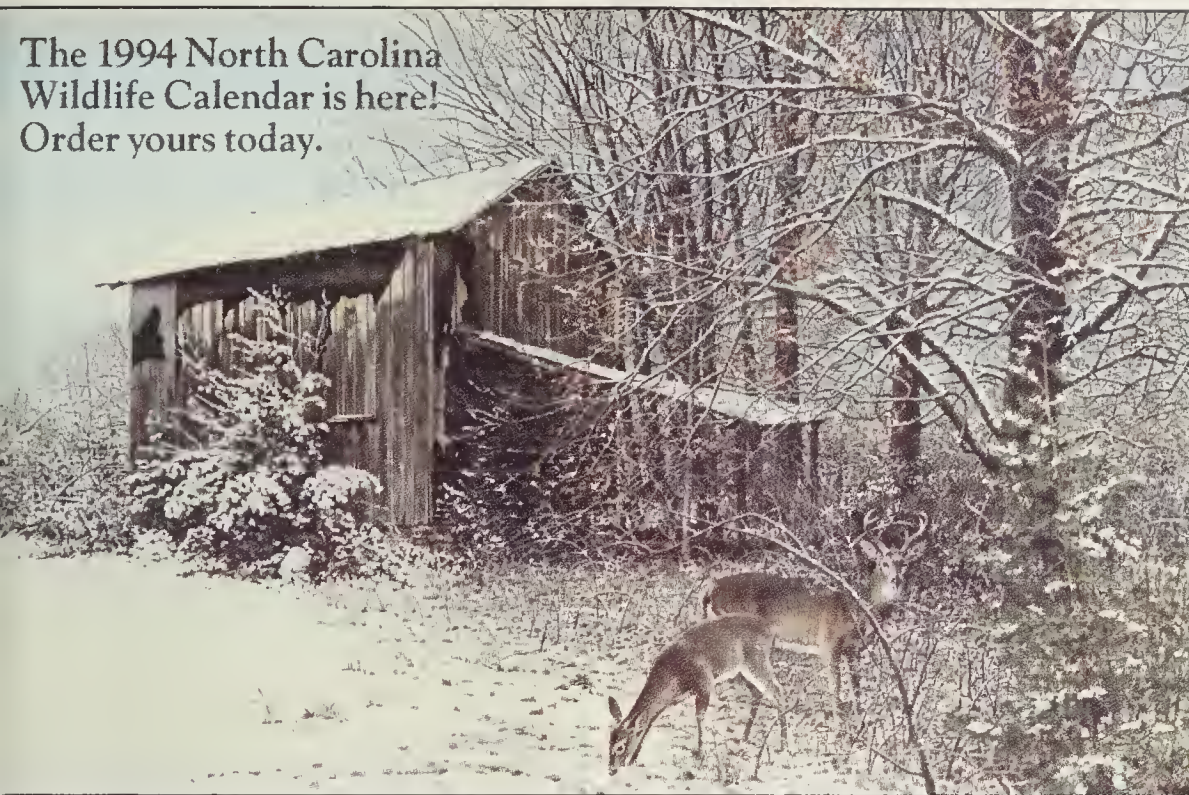
Dial a hearing test

North Carolina residents may dial a toll-free telephone number to obtain a local phone number that will deliver a free hearing screening.

To receive the Dial-A-Hearing Screening Test local number, call 1-800-222-EARS (3277) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

The test is a recorded phone message which introduces four technically tested tones for each ear. The message may be sponsored by a local clinic or hearing specialist.

The test is listed in the American Medical Association's Encyclopedia of Medicine.



The 1994 North Carolina Wildlife Calendar is here! Order yours today.

N.C. Wildlife Calendar

The 1994 North Carolina Wildlife Calendar is for sale by mail order.

The calendar contains color reproductions of wildlife art and a detailed almanac.

The cost is \$6, plus six percent sales tax for North Carolina residents. Discounts are available for bulk orders.

Send payment to Calendar, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C. 27604-1188.

Conservancy buys 300 acres

The North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in September purchased a 300-acre biologically significant tract of land at Grandfather Mountain.

Known as the HBPC tract, the acquisition brings to 2,700 acres the amount of land at Grandfather Mountain protected by Nature Conservancy efforts. The conservancy bought the land for \$785,000 from four private owners.

Among other rare plants on the rocky outcrop, according to the preservation organization, the tract contains the largest known population of mountain bluet, a federally endangered plant.

The land is located on the north side of Grandfather Mountain in Watauga County. It adjoins Highway 105 at the Watauga River and climbs steeply 5,300 feet.

In April, Nature Conservancy purchased 721 acres adjacent to the HBPC tract pursuant to a \$3 million grant from four members of the Stanbeck family, as well as an outright land donation from owners John Williams and Hugh Morton.

Budget measure is a mixed bag for co-ops

The deficit-reducing budget bill passed by Congress in August was a mixed bag for electric cooperatives. It clears the way for large co-ops that generate power to refinance their high-interest government loans. But it put on hold a provision that would have revised the lending program offered by the federal Rural Electrification Administration. And it delayed action on a plan to protect the co-ops from losing territory to municipal utilities when cities annex once-rural areas.

President Clinton signed the \$500 billion, five-year measure into law after coaxing it through Congress on a narrow vote.

Here's what the package means for electric co-ops:

The new law frees generation cooperatives to refinance or prepay their federal loans, with the payment of certain penalties, and allows refinancing at either short- or long-term interest rates.

The co-ops would also have the option of folding the penalties into the refinanced package.

Analysts at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association estimated that four dozen co-ops could realize total annual savings of more than \$100 million under the long-term refinancing option.

"We're delighted with that action," said NRECA Executive Vice President Bob Bergland. "It represents an enormous

savings to our members."

In another area, a package of changes to the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was dropped from the deficit measure, along with more than 150 other proposals, including 14 that affect agriculture or rural areas.

NRECA leaders predicted that the package would be reconsidered at a later date.

"We're going to press for enactment," Bergland said.

The package contains a major overhaul of REA's lending program.

It calls for \$125 million at 5 percent interest to be lent to electric cooperatives qualifying for hardship loans. Another \$600 million would be lent at the same rate at which municipally owned utilities sell their bonds. The cap on that interest rate would be 7 percent.

NRECA and some lawmakers also will push to include another provision, designed to protect the security of federal loans by prohibiting cities from taking over utility service to newly annexed rural areas that are already getting power from co-ops.

That provision was dropped from the deficit measure.—*Rural Electric News Service.*

For Some Lumbree River EMC The Goose That's Abou

He's got skinny legs, a sagging neck, and
an altogether undeniable case of the homelies.

But if you ask farmers in Robeson, Hoke,
or Scotland county what they think, they'll likely
tell you he's the most beautiful creature on earth.

Not long ago, the folks at the Lumbree
Regional Development Association (LRDA) went
to their local EMC with a plan.



With a new turkey processing plant opening
in the area, their idea was to create a model turkey
farm that local farmers could visit to learn all about
how much equipment, time, and money would be
necessary to start their own growing businesses.



Farmers, You're Looking At To Lay The Golden Egg.



The catch of course was money. And that's where the Lumbee River EMC came in. Through the Rural Electrification Association, they helped the LRDA secure a no-interest \$75,000 loan.

Today, the model turkey farm is up and running and there are at least 12 local farmers ready to begin their own operations as soon as they're needed.

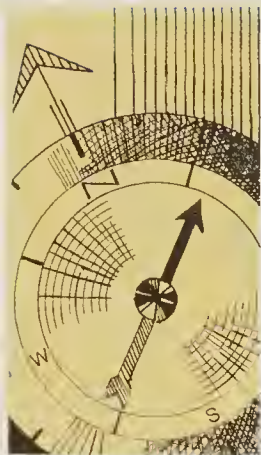
The farmers will earn much-needed income. Local stores will benefit from the extra spending. And the entire three-county area will have the beginnings of a thriving new industry.

And that, if you will pardon the pun, is what you call talking turkey.



Serving 1.6 Million Consumers in 95 North Carolina Counties.

Here, There and Everywhere



**Approaching
the holidays.**

Remember World War II

Nov. 5-7, Fort Fisher

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II. Special bus tours of Fort Fisher and Camp Davis. WWII military vehicles, weapons, equipment and uniforms will be on display. Contact Leland Smith, P.O. Box 169, Kure Beach, N.C. 28449. Phone: (919) 458-5538.

Quilt Show

Nov. 6-7, Asheboro

The Moring Art Center hosts the Randolph Quilt Show IV. For more information send SASE to Sandi Zuker, 359 Inwood Rd., Asheboro, N.C. 27203. Phone: (919) 626-0337.

Southern Christmas Show

Nov. 11-21, Charlotte

Whimsical shops, festive trees, food and holiday entertainment to benefit The Charlotte Observer Empty Stocking Fund.



The show will be open on Nov. 10 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Contact the Southern Christmas Show, P.O. Box 36859, Charlotte, N.C. 28236. Phone: (704) 376-6594.

Indian Heritage Festival

Nov. 6-7, Mt. Gilead

The Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site hosts the festival which features Indian dancers, arts, crafts, exhibits and demonstrations, films traders and food vendors. Open free to the public. Contact Janet Manuel, Rt. 3 Box 50, Mt. Gilead, N.C. 27306.



Mint Museum of Art 1993

Charlotte

Through Nov. 21: ARTCurrents 13 by Susan Brenner. A series of paintings and photographs which investigate loss and denial, absence and presence. Nov. 20-March 13, 1994: Classical Taste in America, 1800-1840. More than 250 objects including furniture, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glass and jewelry representing the decorative and fine arts of this period of American history. Contact Phil Busher, 2730 Randolph Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28207. Phone: (704) 337-2000.



Harvest Festival

Nov. 13, Conetoe

Harvest Country store, barbecue plate lunch and yard sale sponsored by the Conetoe United Methodist Church. The festival will be held at the Ruritan Community Building. Contact Ronald Ellis Jr., P.O. Box 252, Conetoe, N.C. 27819. Phone: (919) 823-6474.



N.C. Writers Conference

Nov. 19-21, Winston-Salem

The Marque Hotel hosts the ninth annual conference which focuses on the whats, whys and wherefores of writing. Roy Blount Jr., author of "Camels Are Easy. Comedy's Hard" will attend along with Eleanor Wilner, David Brendan Flores, Robin Hemley, Stuart Dischell and other writers. Contact the North Carolina Writers' Network, P.O. Box 954, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Phone: (919) 967-9540.

Onslow County Festival

Nov. 7, Richlands

Arts, crafts, and entertainment with over 130 artisans and a children's area. The museum gallery, featuring the fall/winter exhibit, will be open to the public. Contact Onslow County Museum Foundation, P.O. Box 384, Richlands, N.C. 28574. Phone: (919) 324-5008.

Festival of Trees

Dec. 5-8, Lumberton

Annual fundraiser for Hospice of Robeson County. Twenty-five beautifully decorated Christmas trees on display. Proceeds benefit Hospice of Robeson County. Contact Ann McLean, P.O. Box 1408, Lumberton, N.C. Phone: (919) 671-5577.

Stokes Holiday Festival

Nov. 20, Stokes

Flea market, crafts, antique car show, hot air balloon rides, clowns, magic, storytelling and a pancake supper. Contact Cathy Pacha, P.O. Box 177, Stokes, N.C. 27884. Phone: (919) 752-2922.

Christmas Festival

Dec. 4-5, Wilmington

At the historic Poplar Grove Plantation. Arts and crafts show and sale, tours of the decorated 1850 manor house and a Victorian Santa Claus. Contact B.J. Ryan, 20200 U.S. Highway 17, Wilmington, N.C. 28405. Phone: (919) 686-4868.

Christmas at Lyons Palace

Dec. 8-22, New Bern

Visit an 18th century ball, see a soldier's Christmas in a Union-occupied encampment, experience a Victorian Christmas and more. Special candlelight tours will be offered on Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 16, featuring carolers, harpsichord music, and minuet dancers. Contact Michele Bohoon, P.O. Box 1007, New Bern, N.C. 28563. Phone: (800) 767-1560.

Seagrove Sunday

Nov. 21, Seagrove

Seagrove pottery shops will be open on this Sunday before Thanksgiving. Craftspersons will be available to answer questions. For more information and a list of participating shops contact Whynot Pottery, 1013 Fork Creek Mill Rd., Seagrove, N.C. 27341. Phone: (919) 873-9276.



Examples of the variety of pottery at the 25 shops open during Seagrove Sunday.

Holiday Arts and Crafts

Nov. 12-14, Statesville

21st annual show with more than 50 artists, craftsmen and organizations, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Home-cooked meals, door prizes. At the National Guard Armory on Hartness Road. Proceeds for the Junior Service League community projects. Contact Statesville Junior Service League, P.O. Box 1333, Statesville, N.C. 28677. Phone: (704) 878-2688.

Christmastown Parade

Nov. 20, Concord

65th annual Christmastown Express Parade begins at 3 p.m. A 150-unit parade sponsored by the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce and Equifax. Contact the chamber at (704) 782-4111.

Blowing Rock Holiday Calendar

November, Blowing Rock

Nov. 11

Art in the Park,
"Award Winners Show."

Nov. 19

Tellabration Storytelling
Festival, Blowing Rock Arts
Center.

Nov. 25-28

Thanksgiving Celebration.

Nov. 26

Christmas in the Park, Blowing Rock Memorial Park.

Nov. 27

Christmas Parade and horse drawn trolley rides.

Nov. 28

Second annual Advent Walk.

Contact the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, N.C. 28505. Phone: (800) 295-7851.



Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith



A good time for transplanting.

With the arrival of cool weather to stimulate the urge for outdoor work, we reach a period of perfect timing to plants' preference for transplanting during the dormant period. Now's the near-ideal time to re-group or introduce new plants into the landscape. Trees and shrubs are in good supply at nurseries and garden centers.

High on the list of gardening projects is garden grooming, making preparations to "put it to bed" until spring. Weekend projects postponed by the necessity of caring for summer lawns and gardens (not the least of which was watering) can get underway now. These are such jobs as building a needed walkway, trellises and arbors, patio planters, and establishing shrubbery screens and wind-breaks.

Garden chores completed now will help good plant growth and functional and handsome effects during other seasons.

Lily-of-the-valley

It's time to begin planting Lily-of-the-Valley pips for blooms next summer. This ever popular garden perennial grows best in shady spots of fertile soil.

If old plantings have become crowded, dig-divide-reset in freshly prepared, rich soil. Lily-of-the-Valley makes a good groundcover for shady nooks where many plants suffer for lack of sun.

Dried strawflowers

Many foliages and flowers are good subjects for use in everlasting bouquets to give decorative accents to rooms in winter. They're good supplements to living houseplants.

One of the best, flowers which dries to retain its true

color, is the strawflower (*Helichrysum*). Strawflowers are easily grown in the summer garden. Colors range from tones of white, yellow, orange, bronze, pink, and lavender. They're easily dried by cutting blooms just before the centers open. Bundle about a dozen stems together and hang upside down in a cool, airy room for two weeks to dry.

If you did not grow strawflowers last summer, they are available at florist

shops. Florist-secured strawflowers have heavy wire substituted for stems. Wires may be wrapped around two or three dowel sticks.

Clean gutters

Cleanup activities to tackle soon include taking leaves out of drainpipes and gutters. Water falling from leaf-clogged gutters can quickly damage foundation plantings—even the walls of your house.

Trees for autumn color

Every yard needs at least one deciduous tree to contribute showy autumn color. After leaves fall, bare branches of deciduous trees contribute beautiful tracery effects like pen-and-ink etchings against the winter sky.

Tulip trees, related to the magnolia, bear distinctive greenish-yellow blooms in May and June. In the fall they accent the landscape with broad yellow notched leaves.

The orange-red of autumn can be introduced to a yard of well-drained acid soil by planting sassafras. Leaves are a distinct mitten shape and the purple fruit attracts birds, especially quail. Traditionally, teas and tonics have been prepared from sassafras roots. Sugar maples give distinctive colors of orange-red-yellow.

The ginkgo has unusual maiden-hair fern-shaped leaves that are bright yellow. Adapted to poor conditions, ginkgo grows well in congested metropolitan areas. It defoliates very suddenly with practically all leaves falling within a few hours, making for easy raking.

Scarlet and red oaks make handsome lawn specimens. Their rusty red leaves are hairy underneath. The pin oak, partial to moist soil, is widely used in street and ornamental plantings.



Upon entering winter



1. Keep plants well mulched to conserve moisture and add warmth during the winter months.
2. Get spring flowering bulbs in the ground.
3. Wash leaves of houseplants with a soft cloth and liquid detergent in water. Don't wash hairy leaves such as African violets.
4. Clean garden tools if you're ready to store them for winter. Remove soil and clean metal parts with steel wool, coat with motor oil to prevent rust over-winter.
5. As days become shorter, decrease by half the amount of water and fertilizer applied to soil.
6. Allow potted amaryllis bulbs to go dormant by withholding water. Keep bulbs dry and above freezing.
7. Plant pansies before arrival of severe weather.
8. When cleaning the vegetable plot, be sure to store tomato stakes and/or wire cages for use next season.
9. Sow seed of winter-hardy annuals such as larkspur, calendula, Sweet William, phlox, and poppy.
10. Continue the harvest of fall vegetables such as turnips, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peppers, beets, broccoli, collards, cauliflower, radishes, and spinach.

Over The River And Through The Woods...

The Georgian



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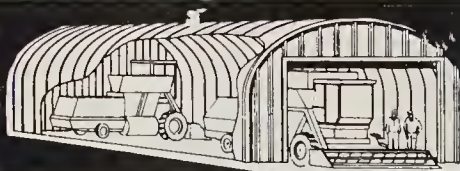
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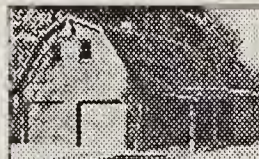


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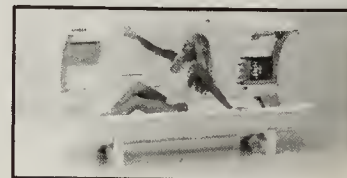
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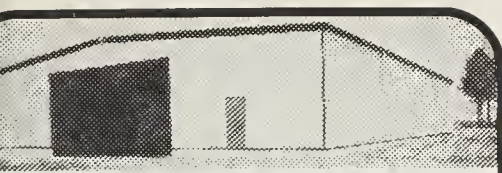


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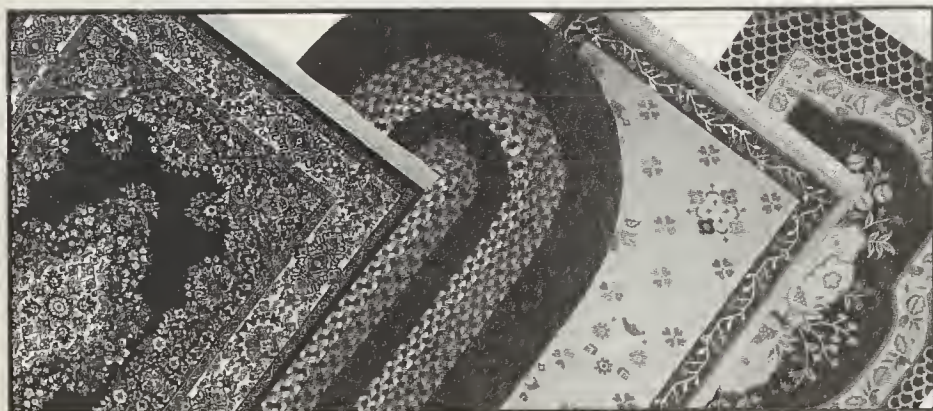
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Talkin' country.

The poetry of the people

I hadn't had such a good time "in a month of Sundays." I was really "in high cotton," reading this new book from "kiver-to-kiver." It was "gooder'n snuff." In fact, I thought I'd laugh " 'til the cows came home!"

My phrasing may be suspect but it doesn't overstate my enthusiasm for the book, a fascinating collection of "sayin's" compiled by Charlotte Observer reporter Diane Suchetka. It's titled, "Country Talk: A Collection of American Country Colloquialisms."

The book evolved from an Observer feature Suchetka (pronounced Suh-Het-Ka) wrote on the subject two years ago. An agent saw the story and suggested she expand it into a book.

"The original story included between 100 and 150 sayin's," she recalled. "There are about 900 in the book."

They're organized into chapters by topics —Front Porch Sayin's, Over The Back Fence Sayin's, School Yard Sayin's, etc. The author uses a colorful vignette to introduce each chapter.

The down home one-liners are "the poetry of the people," she said. "With just a few words, they paint a picture or tell a story that makes you sigh or wince or chuckle."

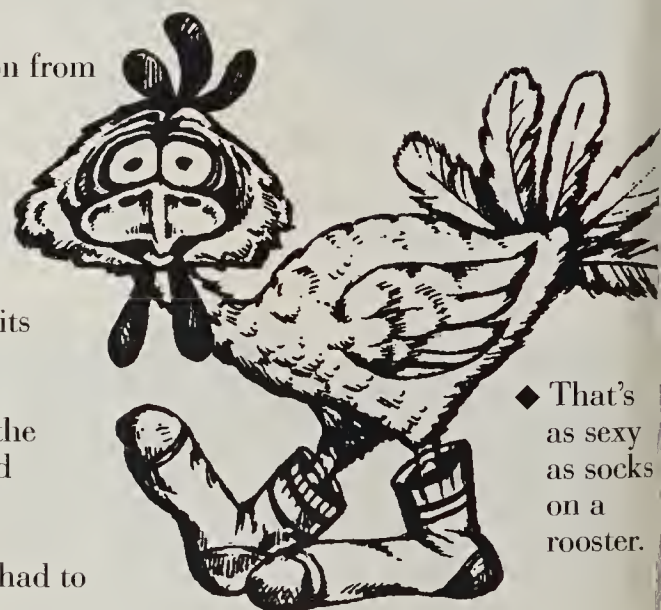
I can reprint only a sampling of Suchetka's collection here, but I've also tossed in several others I've heard or read.

If you want to share your favorites with our readers, pass them along to us and we'll use some of them in a future column. We'll also send them to Suchetka, who is already working on a new edition of "Country Talk."

The 140-page hardcover book is sprinkled with appealing cartoon-style illustrations by Charlotte artist Andrea Winton. It is available at many bookstores for \$12.95. Add \$3 for shipping and handling if you order a copy from the publisher: Country Roads Press, P.O.Box 286, Castine, Maine 04421. For credit card orders, call toll-free: (800) 729-9179.

From "Country Talk"

- ◆ Folks that get all wrapped up in themselves sure do make small packages.
- ◆ An argument is just a swapping of ignorance.
- ◆ I ain't never had indigestion from swallowin' my pride.
- ◆ He's an appetite with skin drawn over it.
- ◆ The food here is so good, it'd make a bulldog break its chain.
- ◆ I'm hungry enough to eat the south end off a northbound skunk.
- ◆ That coffee was so weak I had to help it out of the pot.
- ◆ She's been married so many times she has veil rash.
- ◆ He's so slow it takes him an hour and a half to watch "60 Minutes."
- ◆ He was old when New Orleans was a blueprint.
- ◆ All marriages are happy, it's the livin' together afterward that causes all the trouble.



◆ That's as sexy as socks on a rooster.

- ◆ You know you've reached middle age when all you exercise is caution.
- ◆ You can't count 10 without takin' your shoes off.
- ◆ If I had a dog with a face as ugly as yours, I'd shave his butt and teach him to walk backwards.
- ◆ I'm gonna slap you so hard, your teeth will come out single file.
- ◆ I'm gonna slap you so hard, when you stop rollin' your clothes will be outta style.
- ◆ Just think of how tall you'd be if half your legs hadn't grown into feet.
- ◆ You're livin' in a 100-watt world with a +0-watt mind.
- ◆ You're so ugly, they had to tie a pork chop around your neck to get the dog to play with you.
- ◆ You're so ugly, your mother had to borrow a baby to take to church.

Owen's Collection

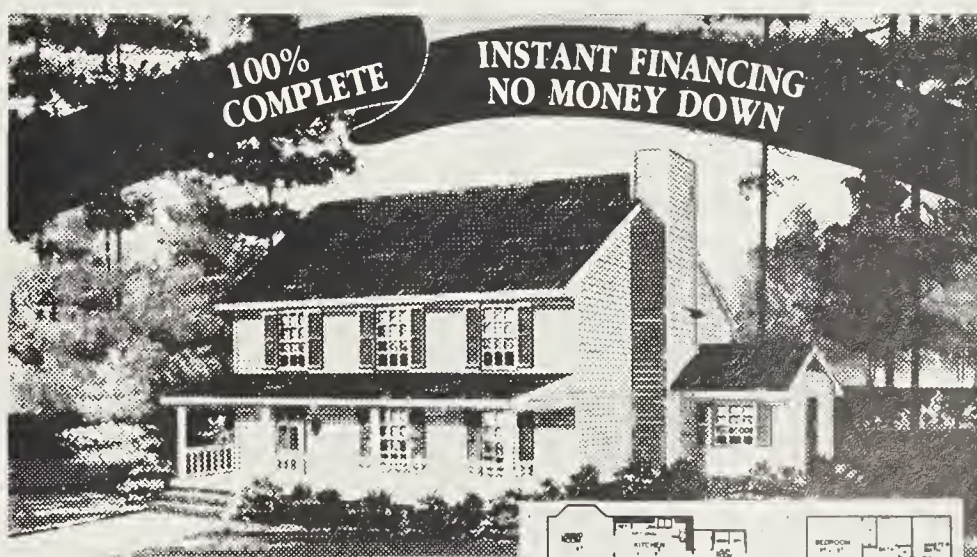
- ◆ He looks like he was rode hard and put up wet.
- ◆ The Lord made him as ugly as He could —and then slapped him!
- ◆ I feel so good I must have slept two rows at a time.
- ◆ Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.
- ◆ You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.
- ◆ You'd rather walk through a lion's den wearin' pork chop drawers than to tangle with me!
- ◆ You don't miss the water 'til the well runs dry.
- ◆ I'll be there is two shakes of a dead sheep's tail in a high wind.
- ◆ He was on it like a duck on a June bug.



Fine as a frog's hair split three ways.

Too many marry for better or worse, but not for good.

- ◆ As nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

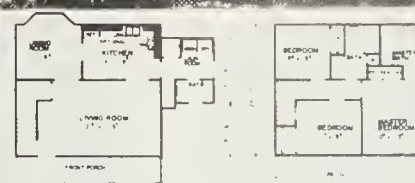


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ground
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⅓ teaspoon
apple pie
spice
2 cups canned or cooked, mashed
pumpkin
⅓ cup rum



Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer about 2 minutes or until soft and creamy. Gradually add sugar, beating at medium speed 5 to 7 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating just until yellow disappears.

Combine flour and next 6 ingredients. Combine pumpkin and rum. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with pumpkin mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Mix at lowest speed just until blended after each addition.

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Circulation: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, also actual number of copies single issue published nearest to filing date. (September 1993). Total copies: Average 341,684 (September 341,454).

Paid Circulation: Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales: None. Mail subscription: Average 337,888 (September 337,833).

Total Paid Circulation: Average 337,888 (September 337,833).

Free Distribution by mail carrier, or other means, samples complimentary and other free copies: Average 3,268 (September 3,106).

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